THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) The modernisation of the Army is an onging exercise. Plans in this regard are periodically reviewed and updated and suitable steps taken to keep it adequately equipped.

Commercial relations with Bofors

2948. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Swedish foreign trade Minister has sent a letter to Government of India urging the Indian Government to re-establish normal commercial relations with Bofors; and

(b) if so, what are the contents of the said letter and Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Some representations have been received from the Swedish Government suggesting that, in view of the changed corporate framework and ownership of Bofors, normal commercial relations with the firm be resumed. No decision has been taken in this regard.

Maintenance of Indian Army

2949. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the recent assessment made by an army top brass team, there is enormous deficiency of equipments and specialised category of ammunition besides shortages of spares seriously affecting the combating and striking power of the army;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the steps contemplated by Government to remove the deficiencies in the Indian army?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) Army's requirements of equipment, ammunition and spares are reviewed on a continuing basis and appropriate steps are taken to keep the Army properly equipped. Further details cannot be divulged in the national security interest.

हिन्दुस्तान एरोनॉटिक्स लिमिटेड के कर्मचारियों की भविष्य निधि

2950. **श्री सोमपाल** : क्या **प्रधान मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान दिनांक 21 अगस्त, 1992 के राष्ट्रीय सहारा, दिल्ली के पृष्ठ 9 पर छपे इस आशय के समाचार की ओर गया है कि सरकार की गलत नीतियों के कारण हिन्दुस्तान एरोनॉटिक्स लिमिटेड के कर्मचारियों की लगभग डेढ़ करोड़ रुपये की राशि डूब गई है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है; और

(ग) सरकार ने इस बात को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए क्या विशेष उपाय किये हैं कि भविष्य में कर्मचारियों की भविष्य निधि की राशि इस प्रकार न फंसे ?

रक्षा मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मल्लिकार्जुन) : (क) जी, हां।

(ख) और (ग) हिन्दुस्तान एरोनाटिक्स लिमिटेड के कानपुर प्रभाग के कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि न्यास ने अपनी कुछ धनराशि का निवेश आई डी बी आई बॉण्ड की खरीद में किया था। 95 लाख रुपए के बाण्डों की सुपुर्दगी न्यास को अभी तक नहीं हुई